

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAPE T 01092 081609Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 L-03 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06  
SS-15 NSC-05 SP-02 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DHA-02  
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R 081455Z JUL 77

FM AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6326

INFO AMCONSUL DURBAN

USMISSION GENEVA

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS PINT SHUM SOCI SF

SUBJ: SAG RESUMES EFFORTS TO EVICT SQUATTERS

REF: (A) CAPE TOWN A-38, (B) CAPE TOWN 0597

SUMMARY - FIVE MONTH OLD SAG CAMPAIGN TO OUST SOME 20-30,000 SQUATTERS FROM CAMP ON OUTSKIRTS OF CAPE TOWN HAS NEARED DECISIVE STAGE. OFFICIALS HAVE ISSUED BLUNT WARNING TO SQUATTERS THAT SHACKS WILL BE DEMOLISHED IN NEAR FUTURE AND THAT THOSE WHO ARE IN CAPE TOWN WITHOUT PERMITS WILL BE EXPECTED TO RETURN TO "PLACE OF ORIGIN". SQUATTERS' ATTORNEYS SAY RECENT CHANGES IN LEGISLATION (REFAIR) HAVE OBIATED ANY FURTHER RECOURSE TO THE COURTS. END SUMMARY

1. PREVIOUS REPORTING HAS CHRONICLED SAG ATTEMPTS SINCE EARLY THIS YEAR TO EVICT AN ESTIMATED 5-7,000 SQUATTERS FROM MODDERDAM CAMP ON OUTSKIRTS OF CAPE TOWN AS  
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PAGE 02 CAPE T 01092 081609Z

INITIAL STEP IN CAMPAIGN TO ELIMINATE ALL SQUATTING IN THE AREA. INITIAL SAG EFFORTS SPARKED CONSIDERABLE CONTROVERSY IN PRESS AND PARLIAMENT AND WERE DELAYED BY LEGAL APPEALS ALLEGING SAG FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH REQUIRED PROCEDURES. REFAIR REPORTED THAT AMENDMENT TO ANTI-SQUATTING LEGISLATION, WHICH EFFECTIVELY BLOCKS ANY FURTHER RECOURSE TO THE COURTS, WAS PUSHED

THROUGH PARLIAMENT IN EARLY MAY.

2. ON JULY 4, SENIOR OFFICIALS OF BANTU AFFAIRS ADMINISTRATION BOARD (BAAB) ANNOUNCED AT PRESS CONFERENCE THAT DEMOLITION AND REMOVAL OF ALL SHANTIES AT MODDERDAM, UNIBELL AND WERKGENOT CAMPS WOULD START IN "NEAR FUTURE." TOTAL POPULATION OF ALL THREE CAMPS, WHICH ARE LOCATED IN BELLVILLE AREA OF CAPE TOWN NEAR "COLORED" UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN CAPE, IS ESTIMATED AT BETWEEN 20-30,000. OFFICIALS SHOWED COPIES OF NOTICES DISTRIBUTED TO SQUATTERS INDICATING THAT SHACKS WERE TO BE DEMOLISHED. IN MEETING WITH SQUATTER LEADER JULY 7, BAAB OFFICIAL REPORTEDLY SAID SQUATTERS MUST BEGIN MOVING "IMMEDIATELY" IF THEY WISH TO AVOID BULLDOZERS. HE MADE IT CLEAR THAT BAAB WOULD START PROSECUTING THOSE IN VIOLATION OF PASS LAWS AND NOTED THAT FINE WAS RECENTLY INCREASED TO R100. OFFICIAL REITERATED SAG'S POLICY THAT AFRICAN WORKERS WHO ARE HERE LEGALLY WILL BE RESETTLED AT AN EMERGENCY CAMP IN NYANGA TOWNSHIP BUT WIVES AND CHILDREN WHO ARE HERE WITHOUT PERMITS MUST RETURN TO "PLACE OF ORIGIN" - GENERALLY CISKEI OR TRANSKEI. THE RELATIVELY SMALL NUMBER OF "COLORED" SQUATTERS ARE TO BE RELOCATED TO A SEPARATE SITE. NEWS REPORTS SAID OFFICIALS REJECTED REQUEST BY SQUATTERS THAT FAMILIES BE PERMITTED TO REMAIN TOGETHER, CITING FAMILIAR ARGUMENT THAT THEY CAME HERE VOLUNTARILY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 CAPE T 01092 081609Z

AS "SINGLE" CONTRACT WORKERS. IF THEY WANTED TO BE WITH THEIR FAMILIES, THEY COULD RETURN TO THE "HOMELANDS."

3. COMMENT - IT IS ESTIMATED THAT 70-80 PERCENT OF WIVES IN CAMPS ARE "ILLEGALLY" PRESENT IN CAPE AREA. IMPLEMENTATION OF SAG POLICY WILL THUS REQUIRE RETURNING SEVERAL THOUSAND WOMEN AND CHILDREN TO VARIOUS PLACES IN TRANSKEI AND CISKEI. THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN MOST ACTIVE IN ATTEMPTING TO ASSIST SQUATTERS NOTE THAT A STRONG SENSE OF COMMUNITY HAS DEVELOPED. THEY ARE CONCERNED AT POTENTIAL FOR VIOLENT CLASH IF SQUATTERS SHOULD FEEL DRIVEN TO ATTEMPT TO FORCIBLY RESIST EVICTION EFFORTS. WHITE

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## Message Attributes

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